

are 2 million veterans who don't have health insurance and are not eligible for veterans care, 2 million veterans. What makes it worse is that President Bush is banning 273,000 veterans from receiving VA care because they are not income eligible. So he is balancing the budget on the backs of middle-class and working veterans.

The good news is that this Democratic majority passed the largest increase in VA health care in the 77-year history of the VA. We are going to add 1,800 new claims processors to make the long lines a little shorter and the wait shorter as well.

Now, we have to go even further. I'm urging my colleagues to sign a letter that I've sent to the President demanding that he reverse the policy of denying health care to 273,000 veterans and not means-test them. We didn't means-test when we asked them to fight our battles. We should not means-test them when they have to come home for health care.

RECOGNIZING TEACHER EXCELLENCE

(Mr. REGULA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. REGULA. Madam Speaker, one of the most significant factors of a student's academic achievement and success in life is a teacher who inspires. It is my privilege to rise today to recognize two outstanding teachers from my district who have been honored for their exceptional service and dedication.

Just last month, Terra Mann was recognized among 4,000 nominations by the U.S. Department of Education as Ohio's recipient of "American Stars of Teaching." With 19 years of teaching at Worley School in Canton and hundreds of inspired students behind her, Terra's talent and commitment has propelled students forward. In 5 years, she has risen to the challenge and helped move a struggling school to one of the highest designations of success we measure as a Nation, particularly in the critical area of reading proficiency.

Julie Herman teaches at Compton Elementary in Canton, Ohio, and is the most recent recipient of the Milken Family Foundation National Educator Award, an award also known as the "Oscars of Teaching." She is an intervention specialist and engages young at-risk and disabled students to achieve remarkable success academically. In 2005-2006, she helped all of her third graders pass the Ohio Achievement Test.

Before our future entrepreneurs, innovators and leaders stands a teacher, and these women are examples of the truly best. I'm pleased to recognize and congratulate them here today.

FUNDING FOR VETERANS

(Mr. STUPAK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STUPAK. Madam Speaker, this country must keep its promises made to our servicemen and -women when they choose to serve our country by taking care of them when they return home as veterans. This Democratic Congress has been dedicated to making sure the needs of all America's veterans are fulfilled.

So far this year we've passed legislation providing the largest funding increase for veterans in the 77-year history of the VA. This funding will allow the VA to keep up with the growing number of veterans who need care, maintain its health care facilities, and treat veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan who are suffering from PTSD and traumatic brain injuries.

We also voted to increase military pay by 3.5 percent, as well as special pay and bonuses to combat troops, putting an additional \$7.3 billion in military paychecks. Unfortunately, the Bush administration is now renegeing on these enlistment bonuses to those severely wounded combat veterans.

Madam Speaker, this Democratic Congress has made meeting the needs of the veterans and our military a top priority. This weekend, and every day, let us all remember the service of our Nation's veterans and commit ourselves to keeping this country's promises to them.

INTRODUCTION OF TITLE X ABORTION PROVIDER PROHIBITION ACT

(Mr. PENCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, you know, there aren't many good things happening in federally funded family planning clinics nationwide, but should the largest abortion provider in America also be the largest recipient of Federal family planning funding under title X? I think not. This summer, 189 Republicans and Democrats agreed, supporting my amendment to prohibit tax dollars from funding Planned Parenthood.

Well, in that vein, today I'm introducing the Title X Abortion Provider Prohibition Act, a bill that would prohibit the distribution of title X family planning money to abortion providers here at home. There's simply no reason in the world why the taxpayer dollars of millions of pro-life Americans should be used to underwrite abortion providers in this country.

I urge my colleagues to join me as original cosponsors this week in support of the Title X Abortion Provider Prohibition Act.

IRAQ PRAYERS

(Ms. DELAURO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to give voice to many of my constituents who, as we approach the fifth Veterans Day since the Iraq war began, are as concerned as ever over our seemingly endless presence in that country and the ever-dimming prospects for peace. I've received a surge of prayers from my constituents regarding the war in recent weeks and would like to read two:

From Orange, Connecticut: "Loving God, inspire our leaders in Congress to release Your spirit of wisdom, courage and love and end the war, death and suffering in Iraq."

From Hamden, Connecticut: "I pray that the hearts and minds of those making decisions concerning the war in Iraq be opened to finding viable, peaceful alternatives to continuing the war. I pray that the withdrawal of troops commence immediately, and continue steadily over the shortest period possible, to bring them all home. I pray that the light of God will fall upon the country and Iraq and bring about peace in that place."

It is well past time to listen to these prayers, redeploy our troops and bring them safely home.

PASS THE U.S.-PERU FREE TRADE AGREEMENT

(Mr. WELLER of Illinois asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WELLER of Illinois. Madam Speaker, you know, trade and exports are important in States like Illinois, and particularly the district that I represent.

In Illinois, 17,000 businesses depend on exports for their survival. Forty percent of the corn soybeans and pork and beef and other livestock products are exported. One out of five manufacturing jobs is dependent on exports.

We have an opportunity today to expand trade. The 14 trade agreements this Congress has adopted in the last 12 years have created 16 million new jobs.

Today, we have before us the U.S.-Peru Free Trade Agreement. What's nice about this agreement is it makes trade a two-way street. Right now, Peruvian products enter the United States duty free. Manufactured goods, agricultural products from Peru enter the United States without tariffs or duties, but it's not reciprocal. Caterpillar, for example, our biggest manufacturer in Illinois, their products face a 12 percent tariff.

What's good about the agreement we're going to vote for today is 80 percent of the tariffs on manufactured goods are gone on day one for U.S. products exported to Peru under this trade agreement.

It is good for Illinois workers, it's good for Illinois manufacturers, and I also note for Illinois farmers. Right now, they're at a disadvantage. It gives them the opportunity to be competitive. Let's have a bipartisan vote for U.S.-Peru.

□ 1030

UNITED STATES-PERU TRADE
PROMOTION AGREEMENT IMPLE-
MENTATION ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 801, proceedings will now resume on the bill (H.R. 3688) to implement the United States-Peru Trade Promotion Agreement.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. When proceedings were postponed on Wednesday, November 7, 2007, 20 minutes remained in debate.

The gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL) has 5 minutes remaining; the gentleman from California (Mr. HERGER) has 10 minutes remaining; and the gentleman from Maine (Mr. MICHAUD) has 5 minutes remaining.

Without objection, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. MCCRERY) may resume control of time from the gentleman from California (Mr. HERGER) and, without objection, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) may resume control of time from the gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL).

There was no objection.

Mr. LEVIN. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the very distinguished gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS).

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. I want to thank my friend and colleague for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution. I would like to thank Chairman RANGEL, Chairman LEVIN and the minority Members for all of their hard work on this effort. This is not a perfect bill, but it is a good bill. I have always believed that our trade policy must be a reflection of our values.

This legislation moves us a step forward in building a bipartisan trade policy. In this bill, we seek to protect the rights of workers to organize. We look out for the environment. When it comes to trade, we all live in the same House, call it the House of Peru, call it the House of America. What we do today with this resolution is in the best interests of all of us who live on this little planet, this little piece of real estate that we call Earth.

I urge all of my colleagues to vote for the passage of this bill.

Mr. LEVIN. Madam Speaker, as I understand it, Mr. MCCRERY is going to use their time. Mr. MICHAUD is going to use his 5 minutes. Mr. RANGEL on our side is going to do the closing. I now have 4 minutes remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman is correct.

Mr. LEVIN. Madam Speaker, I yield myself 2 minutes.

Madam Speaker, I am from Michigan. I have seen firsthand the dislocation from globalization. That's why we have been fighting for a new trade policy, a trade policy that shapes globalization. It shapes trade to expand the benefits and to address the down sides.

Enforceable worker rights and environmental standards have been at the core of this struggle. Worker rights in the trade equation fundamentally alters the power dynamics in developing countries, just as it has in our own. This is important for those workers, for Peru, who needs a middle class, for our workers who should not compete with workers who are suppressed, and our businesses and their workers who need more middle classes to sell to.

Let me close by saying a word about enforcement. The core labor standards and the environmental obligations are on a par with every other provision in this bill, every other. Any person can file a petition if there is a failure to enforce. We have the power of oversight, including subpoena power, if this administration fails to enforce.

We have worked with Peru to bring their legal structure into compliance with ILO standards. There has been reference to a recent mining strike, and we worked with the Peru Government to change their rules regarding what it takes to have a strike. Also, they are working now to determine who is, within ILO rules, the proper authority to declare a strike legal or not.

This Peru FTA is a victory. It's a breakthrough. It's a first step in a new trade policy. Our job is to lead, to build on that history, not to retreat from it.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCCRERY. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to allow Mr. LEVIN to control 1 minute of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Louisiana?

There was no objection.

Mr. LEVIN. I would yield 2 minutes to our very, very distinguished leader, Mr. CLYBURN.

Mr. CLYBURN. I thank the chairman for yielding to me, and I thank the other side for allowing me this minute.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the Peru Free Trade Agreement. This may come as a surprise to many of my colleagues, because I have seldom supported our previous trade agreements that have come before this body.

My reasons have been quite simple. I have considered most of the trade deals that have been offered to this body to be unfair to my constituents and many communities in my region of the country. But I want to thank the drafters of this legislation for bringing a bill to the floor that I consider to be fair. This bill addresses critical environmental and labor concerns that are very important to me and my constituents. This bill will help farmers in my district and all across this country compete in the global marketplace.

Because of the size and the diversity of this body, it is not an easy task to bring legislation to the floor that pleases everyone. Trade bills are almost certain to engender disagreements among our Members.

As I mentioned earlier, I have found many shortcomings with previous

trade initiatives that have come before this floor. This bill, however, charts a new direction in trade legislation and should serve as a template for those of us to use in moving our trade policies in a more worker friendly and environmentally protective direction.

We have come a long ways with our trade policies in recent years, and we may still have a long ways to go before we are able to consistently get trade bills that are as good as I would like.

But it is important that this new Congress continue working to bring trade bills to the floor that are fair. This bill is a fair bill, and I encourage my colleagues to support it.

Mr. LEVIN. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that Mr. RANGEL control the rest of our time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

Mr. MCCRERY. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to allow Mr. RANGEL, the distinguished chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, to allocate 2 minutes of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Louisiana?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Maine.

Mr. MICHAUD. Madam Speaker, I am asking Members who are committed to a fair trade deal to vote against the Peru FTA. While I have been a Member of Congress for only 5 years, I have been a mill worker all my life. The mill I worked at in Maine shut down 3 days after I was sworn in as a Member of Congress. The culprit? Badly flawed trade deals.

This lunch bucket sits proudly in my office. It symbolizes who I am, what I stand for. It also symbolizes what has been lost.

Since the passage of NAFTA, our country has lost over 3 million jobs. When the vote on NAFTA happened, Members of Congress were promised NAFTA would raise the standard of living for all. They were sold a dream, but the dream is now a nightmare of millions of workers all across this country.

The American people get it. Polling indicates that an overwhelming number of Americans, Republicans and Democrats, are concerned about exporting our jobs. They worry whether or not they will have a paycheck in the years to come. We have all seen the ugly face of trade agreements that don't live up to the promises. The debate here today is not whether Peru is a small country and the trade impact is small compared to China. The debate is when will we truly change the course of trade policy.

If this was truly a good trade policy, I would be the first to support it. The bill's supporters claim that enhanced environmental standards in the FTA will preserve our natural resources.